

***** T O P S E C R E T *****S COPY

OP IMMEO
VZCZCSAM 0021
DE WTE33 #0021 0121515
O 121517Z JAN 74
FM HAK

TO SCOWCROFT

T O P S E C R E T /SENSITIVE

HAKTO 7
REF TOHAK 15

1. WHILE I HAVE NO DESIRE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE DEBATE OVER HOW BEST TO RESPOND TO THE TRIBUNE AND POST STORIES, I FIND THE STATEMENT CONTAINED REFTEL BREATHTAKINGLY SHORTSIGHTED. THE TONE OF MYSTERY IT AFFECTS WILL ONLY WHET THE APPETITE OF THE PRESS, AND GUARANTEE CONTINUING PURSUIT.
 - 2.. FURTHER, THE STATEMENT IS INTERNALLY INCONSISTENT. IF THE STORY TOUCHES ON SENSITIVE INFORMATION ALREADY LEAKED TO THE PRESS, THEN WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF TRYING TO PROTECT SOMETHING THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN COMPROMISED?
 3. FINALLY, THE FAILURE TO REFER TO MOORE'S DENIAL WAS A MISTAKE AND MAY WELL LEAD TO QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW SERIOUSLY IT SHOULD BE TAKEN.
 4. BRENT, COULD YOU CALL NANCY PERIODICALLY AND KEEP HER INFORMED.
 5. PLEASE FORWARD FULL TEXT OF WASHINGTON POST MOOREE ARTICLE SOONEST.
 6. WARM REGARDS.
- BT
GRNC
200

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

SCOWCROFT, MCFARLANE, SECFILE

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